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Newsletter

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PUBLISH
LECTURES ON BALANCED NATIONAL GROWTH

A book containing five lectures on a balanced national growth is expected to be published in midwinter by the Graduate School of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The lectures would represent a series begun November 4 and continuing through December 1 in the Jefferson Auditorium of the Department.

Dr. Henry L. Ahlgren, the Department's newly-appointed Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, opened the series November 4 with a paper entitled "The Need for Action."

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin introduced the series at the opening lecture. Persons interested in the balanced growth of the Nation and national progress were in attendance.

The series, which also features brief reaction comments by leaders in growth and development planning, was prompted, the Department said, by the report of the National Goals Research Staff in the White House, entitled "Toward Balanced Growth: Quantity with Quality."

Speakers in addition to Dr. Ahlgren, are:

Nov. 9: D. Gale Johnson, of the University of Chicago: "Population Balance."

Nov. 17: Benjamin Chinitz, of Brown University: "Economics of Balanced Growth."

Nov. 24: Marion Clawson, of Resources for the Future, Inc.: "Resources and Technology for Balanced Growth."

Dec. 1: The Hon. Norbert Tiemann, Governor of Nebraska: "Balanced Growth and the Citizen."

DR. HENRY L. AHLGREN ASSUMES DUTIES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"Rural development is a process--a concept," Dr. Henry L. Ahlgren, recently-appointed Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture, has been telling rural development staffers in the Department, "Rural development is not a program in the usual sense. To be successful it will need to involve the resources and expertise of agencies of government at all levels, private groups and organizations, and most important of all the people themselves."

Dr. Ahlgren sees his role as helping to coordinate all the parts of the process of rural development, working actively with all Federal agencies, the private sector, Governors' offices and State rural development committees.

"Rural development is a process by which government can help the people it serves in the way that the people want it," he said in a recent interview, "Programs must be developed that will make it possible for people to live and work where they want to live and work."

"What can happen in Rural America in the next 15 or 20 years will determine the future of all America. I firmly believe that."

Dr. Ahlgren was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin's Extension program when he was appointed to his present post September 11.

EXTENSION SERVICE BEEFS UP ITS RURAL DEVELOPMENT STAFF

Recent appointments in Extension Service in Washington--

Dr. John S. Bottum, professor at Ohio State University and State leader for Extension community development: appointed Assistant Administrator for Rural Development, a new post in the Service.

Donald L. Nelson, associate Extension editor for rural development at Iowa State University: appointed information specialist for rural development in Extension's information services division, also a new post.

YEARBOOK EXAMINES THE FORCES THAT ARE CHANGING RURAL AMERICA

The forces that are constantly reshaping rural America are examined in the 1970 Yearbook of Agriculture published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In a section entitled "Country and City--One Nation," experts discuss such subjects as "The Dying Town and Why Time Passed It By," "Tomorrow's Vision Saves Many of Today's Rural Communities," and "The Team Haul Community in a Jet Age."

Copies of "Contours of Change," as the book is titled, may be purchased for \$3.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. USDA has no copies available for public distribution or sale.

SLIDE SET OUTLINES AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture's record in both exploiting and conserving environmental values is traced in a new slide set and filmstrip, "Agriculture and the Changing Environment," issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Copies of the slide set may be purchased for \$12.50 from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Copies of the filmstrip can be purchased for \$8.50 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20011.

RURAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IMPROVED
BUT STILL WORSE THAN IN CITIES, STUDY SHOWS

The quality of rural housing has improved markedly since 1950, when 62 percent was substandard, according to a report just issued by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A 1968 census survey showed that 17.1 percent of the housing outside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas was substandard, the report observes. The percentage of substandard housing in the central cities is 5.7 percent, and, in the suburbs, it is 4.0 percent.

The report, entitled "Rural Housing: Trends and Prospects," (Agricultural Economic Report No. 193), states that its purpose is to pull together some of the facts on housing that are already known and to draw some inferences to provide a better basis for decisions about rural housing.

One reason for the contrasting situations between urban and rural America is that mortgage credit generally is more available and less expensive to city and suburban householders, the report observes.

A copy of the report may be obtained without charge on postcard request from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

BOOKLET TELLS COMMUNITIES
HOW TO ATTRACT INDUSTRIES

Only a few hundred firms are likely to build new plants in any given year. A new booklet published by the Economic Development Administration Department of Commerce, offers practical advice to communities on attracting new industry.

The 44-page illustrated booklet discusses community promotion, methods of finding firms likely to expand, the necessity to match industry with community and many other aspects of industrial location. Entitled "How to Improve Your Community by Attracting New Industry," the booklet may be obtained for 35 cents by writing: The Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION
ISSUES RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GUIDE

A new leaflet, "Developing Community Resources," a well-illustrated 20-page "how-to-do-it" guide on community development has been issued by the Rural Electrification Administration.

Containing examples of recent community development activities around the country, the publication features a Community Development Check List which offers local developers a concise chart for plotting community growth from the planning stage forward.

Copies are available without charge from the REA Information Services Division, Washington, D. C. 20250.



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OLD SCHOOL IN WEST VIRGINIA FINDS MODERN ROLE IN LIVES OF RESIDENTS

With increased tourism in the Sutton Lake area creating a demand for locally made crafts, the Braxton County, West Virginia, Extension Homemakers Council decided to establish a county crafts center.

The community made it possible:

First, the county board of education gave the council permission to renovate 67-year old Bowling Green School, then donated some paint, windows and chairs. Then a garden club hired a painter for a day. Two Lions Clubs drilled a well and provided work tables. A lumber company provided lumber for a new porch. An electrical contracting firm wired the building.

Individuals volunteered 800 hours of labor. Visitors contributed money toward a \$300 kiln and two local families donated looms. Local craftsmen volunteered to conduct workshops in weaving and making ceramics with native clay.

The West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service reports a successful first year of sales last summer, and a lot of work yet to be done.

SNOW SURVEYS CAN HELP DEVELOPERS

Soil Conservation Service personnel have taken a new look at snow survey records with the development of ski resorts in mind.

They estimated that a good site for a ski resort should have a minimum of 12 to 18 inches of new snow or four to six inches of packed snow by early December. Then they outlined on maps and overlays the mountainous areas that have met these conditions in at least 18 years out of 20. The result was a handy guide to prospective ski resort developers.